

**ROTHERHAM SCHOOLS FORUM
FRIDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 2012**

Present: - David Silvester (in the Chair).

Primary Schools: - Angela Heald (Saint Pius), Sue Warner (Wickersley), Kay Jessop (Wingfield), Donna Humphries (Aston), Jane Fearnley (Oakwood), Sam Thompson (Clifton).

Secondary Schools: - Louise Hatswell (on behalf of D Butler) (St Bernard's), Roger Burman (Winterhill), Gill Ramsay (on behalf of D Pridding) (Swinton), Paul Blackwell (Dinnington), Stuart Wilson (Rawmarsh), Bev Clubley (Thrybergh) and David Ashmore (Rotherham Teaching School Alliance)

Early Years: - Margaret Hague (The Arnold Centre, nursery provider),

Non School: - Councillor Paul Lakin (Cabinet Member for Safeguarding Children and Adults), Val Broomhead (Unison), Geoff Gillard (Sheffield Diocese), Karen Borthwick (14-19 Partnership).

Also in attendance: - Helen Barre (CYPS), Dorothy Smith (CYPS), Katy Edmondson (CYPS), Vera Njelic (Resources Directorate), Joanne Robertson (Resources Directorate).

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from: - John Henderson (Primary Schools), John Day (Secondary Schools), Michael Waring (Schools' Business Manager Representative), Susan Brook (NASUWT), Nick Whittaker (Special Schools), Geoff Jackson (Primary Schools), David Pridding (Secondary Schools - represented by Gill Ramsay) and David Butler (Secondary Schools - represented by Louise Hatswell).

47. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2011

Consideration was given to the minutes of the previous meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum, held on Friday 9th December, 2011.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record.

48. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

With regard to Minute No. 43 of the meeting held on 9 December 2011 (Hospital Teaching Service), it was noted that funding had been secured for the Hospital Teaching Service, for the 2012/13 financial year.

49. EXPLANATION OF THE SCHOOLS' BUDGET SETTING PROCESS

Joanne Robertson, CYPS Finance Manager, provided a brief overview of the structure and management of the schools' budget setting process. The presentation and subsequent discussion included reference to the following salient issues:-

- : timescales
- : Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)
- : the way in which the DSG is calculated
- : estimated total Schools Budget 2012/13
- : individual school budgets
- : centrally managed Service budgets
- : DSG and the Children and Young People's Service budget

In addition to school budgets, the contribution of the different funding streams to centrally managed services was noted.

The Schools Forum members thanked Joanne Robertson for the informative presentation.

50. THORNHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPIL NUMBER CHANGE

Helen Barre presented a report stating that there is pressure on the Thornhill Primary School's accommodation from increasing pupil numbers from within the school's catchment area. Preferences for the school now regularly exceed the number of places (30) available in each statutory year group. There is also pressure on neighbouring schools and some families are in the position of having older brothers and sisters separated from their younger siblings and who have to attend alternative neighbouring schools. The Council's responsible Cabinet Member and Advisers have received reports at the pre-statutory and statutory consultation stages and no objections have been received to the proposed enlargement of the School. The necessary approval was granted on 17th January 2012, to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) to 45 pupil places per statutory year group and 26 full time equivalent F1 places with effect from September 2012.

The additional pupils will not be on roll for the January, 2012, School Census return and, therefore, the 2012/2013 individual school budget allocation will be insufficient to fund the additional teaching and support staff required from September 2012.

Agreed: (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the Rotherham Schools' Forum approves funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant to enable additional teaching and support staff to be deployed at the Thornhill Primary School from September 2012 to March 2013.

(3) That a briefing be submitted to the next Rotherham Schools' Forum meeting that details envisaged future proposals for school expansion and the potential requests for funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant.

51. BUDGET SETTING - PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS

Katy Edmondson attended the meeting to explain the funding of the Pupil Referral Units (PRUs). Salient issues included:-

- : a small over-spend of £8,000 (e.g.: transport for vulnerable children) within the current financial year should be balanced by savings on other budget heads of account and careful budget monitoring;

: Some PRUs may over-spend, whereas some will under-spend their budgets; eg: premises costs have been significant for various PRUs in the 2011/12 financial year;

: the budget is historically separated into a number of different areas, leading to irregular budget pressures for some PRUs and not for others. For example, some PRUs operate in partnership with organisations external to the Borough Council, whereas others are funded wholly from the Schools' Budget.

Agreed:- (1) That every endeavour be made to balance the current year (2011/2012) budget for Pupil Referral Units.

(2) That Katy Edmondson present a written report about the 2012/13 budget for the Pupil Referral Units to the next meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum, to be held on Friday 2nd March, 2012.

52. OUTLINE OF MAIN PRESSURES ON 2012/13 BUDGET

The Chairman, David Silvester, presented a report outlining the main pressures on the Total Schools Budget during the 2012/2013 financial year, particularly:-

Carbon Reduction Commitment
Private Finance Initiative – increased contribution
Thornhill Primary School – enlargement to provide additional pupil places

Agreed: That the report be received and its contents noted.

53. EARLY YEARS PVI BUDGET REQUIREMENT

Aileen Chambers and Steve Scott presented a report about the budget requirement for Early Education in the Private, Voluntary, Independent (PVI) sector. There is a total of 78 providers (including 14 Children's Centres). Early education sessions are available for children from the term after their third birthday until they access school provision at either Foundation Stage 1 or Foundation Stage 2. There is a projected over-spend on the current year's budget (2011/12).

The submitted report included three budget projections: (i) one based on the number of eligible children, (ii) one taking into account the projected number of 2 year olds and assuming initially that they will all take-up their provision in the PVI sector and (iii) one assuming all 2 year olds moving into 3 year olds' places in the Autumn term will take their place in the maintained sector. The budget options for the PVI Early Education element of the Dedicated Schools Grant were based upon the existing £3.60 per hour average Single Funding Formula rate.

In response to questions regarding data accuracy and the overspend position, it was reported that more accurate predictions can now be made because of the availability of improved birth data.

It was also noted that there was no indication that the downturn in the local economic situation would reduce the take-up of early education places.

Agreed: (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That, in respect of the 2012/2013 financial year, the PVI Early Education element of the Dedicated Schools Grant shall be maintained at the existing £3.60 per hour average Single Funding Formula rate.

(3) That, in respect of the 2012/2013 financial year, the Rotherham Schools' Forum approves Option 3, as detailed in the submitted report, providing an increase of 2% on the 2011/12 budget.

(4) That a contingency sum of approximately £170,000 shall be maintained (ie: the difference in cost between Option 1 and Option 3) which shall apply jointly to both the PVI sector and the maintained sector.

(5) That funding for administration is withdrawn from this proposal, as being ineligible.

(6) That Aileen Chambers and Steve Scott shall present a progress report on this issue, to a meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum during the Summer Term 2012.

54. DRAFT 2012/13 BUDGET

Discussion took place on the estimated Schools Budget for the 2012/2013 financial year. Reference was made to:-

- : Education Catering Service
- : Education Action Zones
- : City Learning Centres
- : Special Educational Needs
- : School Contingency
- : Costs of Redundancy
- : HM Government proposals in respect of Academies (especially in relation to primary schools).

The Schools Forum expressed particular concern about the increases in the Schools' Private Finance Initiative costs over the last three years

Agreed: (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That further information be provided at the next meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum, to be held on Friday 2nd March, 2012:-

(a) about the contractual requirement for the Schools Budget to fund additional contributions in respect of the Schools' Private Finance Initiative; and

(b) about the activity and funding of the City Learning Centres.

(3) That the contingency budget heading that exists be broken down into, and displayed on budget monitoring documents as specific budget headings.

55. CONSULTATION RESPONSES: DISTRIBUTION OF EXTENDED SERVICES TO

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS

Further to Minute No. 37 (Extended Services 2012-2013) of the meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum held on 9th December, 2011, consideration was given to the funding of Extended Services in the forthcoming, 2012/13, financial year.

Agreed:- (1) That the Schools' Forum agrees that, from the 2012/13 financial year, the former Extended Services Grant shall be delegated to schools and form part of the 'Individual Schools Budget', with each school receiving an allocation through an agreed formula (i.e.: this funding shall not be retained by the Borough Council).

(2) That the Extended Services funding be allocated on the basis of 50% on pupil numbers and 50% on free school meal numbers.

(3) That the Centrally Retained Grant will be distributed on a per pupil basis with 6% of the Grant being retained to fund the salary of PS (Education Welfare Officer) and also address the issues of need of fairness resulting from the Pupil Premium.

56. COMMISSIONING - VALUE FOR MONEY REVIEW OF EDUCATION CATERING SERVICE

Further to Minute No. 42 of the meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum held on 9th December, 2011, discussion took place on the value for money review of the Education Catering Service. Emphasis was placed upon the need to ensure the quality of service provided.

Agreed:- (1) That the Rotherham Schools' Forum requires the local authority to undertake a competitive tendering exercise for the future provision of the Education Catering Service.

(2) That the Service Manager shall attend the next meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum for discussion about the procurement charge applicable in respect of the current year's Education Catering Service contract.

57. COMPARISON OF CENTRALLY RETAINED BUDGET - 2009/10 TO 2012/13

The Schools' Forum noted the details, as submitted, of the comparison of the centrally retained budgets for the financial years 2009/2010 to 2012/2013.

58. ROTHERHAM CHARTER FOR PARENT AND CHILD VOICE

This item would be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting, to be held on Friday 2nd March 2012.

59. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed:- (1) That the next meeting of the Rotherham Schools' Forum be held on Friday, 2nd March, 2012, at the Rockingham Teachers' Centre, beginning at 8.30 a.m.

(2) That future meetings of the Schools' Forum be held on:-

Friday 20th April 2012 (instead of 13 April)

Friday 22nd June 2012